

**Committee of Southern States for
Provision of maximum Water**

5102. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee of the Southern States to provide maximum water to one another;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Southern States thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However the National Water Development Agency has since 1982 been undertaking studies for inter-basin transfer of water of the peninsular rivers and preparation of feasibility reports of 17 water transfer links. The Agency has already prepared pre-feasibility reports of 7 such links and the reports on the remaining links are proposed to be completed during the VIII Plan.

(c) The proposals regarding inter-linking of rivers are discussed at different stages of formulation in the Technical Administrative Committee meetings in which the concerned Southern States are also represented and the suggestions received from the States are given due consideration.

**Study Regarding Irrigation Facilities in
Tamil Nadu**

5103. SHRI R. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by some Central team to increase irrigation facilities in Tamil Nadu,

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct such a study in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). In the past, two Committees had been constituted by the Government of India to examine the possibilities of eastward diversion of the west flowing rivers of Kerala and Karnataka. These Committees have inter-alia recommended that the west flowing river basins of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala carrying surplus water could be beneficially used elsewhere, specially in the water-short areas.

(c) and (d). Considering the possibility of diverting surplus waters in the Southern regions, the Government of India established the national Water Development Agency to study the inter-basin transfer of water from surplus to water-short areas. Feasibility reports have been proposed on 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular River Development Programme. The Agency has already prepared pre-feasibility reports on seven of such water transfer links, including Pamba-Achankovil-Vaigai Link, the implementation of which will increase the irrigation facilities in the drought prone areas of Tamil Nadu.

**Communications Facilities In Sonapat
District of Haryana**

5105. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Telephone exchanges as on December 31, 1988 in Sonapat district of Haryana;